

# CTE Introduction

## **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE BY EXPLORING IN CTE INTRO TODAY**

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS



**Career and Technical Education**  
Utah State Office of Education

## CTE INTRODUCTION (CTE INTRO) – Formerly TLC

*PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE BY EXPLORING IN CTE INTRO TODAY*

Awareness – Exploration – Skill Building – CTE College and Careers Pathways

CTE Intro is a required course for seventh grade students. Through CTE Intro, students participate in activity-centered lessons to utilize technology, develop beginning skills, and explore careers by expanding awareness. CTE Intro provides information regarding future classes and training related to each student's career field of interest.

Technological advances and global competition have changed the nature of work. Jobs today require increased levels of knowledge and advanced technical skills. Learning is a lifelong process, and students need to be prepared for the future. CTE Intro creates an awareness of the knowledge and skills students will need for ongoing success in college, career, and life. A skill learned today is a skill for life.

Technology is expected to continue to have an affect on items we use everyday; therefore, it is critical to be able to adjust to the evolving technical world.

- Can you imagine not being able to watch a movie because you don't know how to operate a DVD player?
- Can you imagine not being able to record your favorite television show because you don't know how to program a VCR or TiVo recorder?
- Can you imagine not being able to call or text a friend because you don't know how to use a cell phone?
- Can you imagine not being able to listen to your favorite music because you don't know how to download music to your iPod?
- Can you imagine not being able to use the Internet to research a subject because you don't know how to use a computer?

From mobile phones to Smartphones, from 35mm cameras to digital cameras, from desktop computers to laptop computers, from a Walkman cassette player to an iPod nano, technology continues to advance at an incredible speed. Whether you're in school or not, you will be affected by the changing world and you will want to know how to learn, adapt, and change with it!

## THE FACTS ABOUT CTE INTRO

- CTE Intro, formerly called TLC, began in 1987 in all middle/junior high schools throughout the state of Utah, where it has been very successful.
- CTE Intro helps each student understand his or her future role as a worker and a family member and to become aware of those life skills necessary to be a contributing member of society.
- CTE Intro supports the development of life skills by exploring different career fields through activity-centered lessons.
- CTE Intro students discover how "core subjects" in school – language arts, math, social studies, and science – are essential to success, no matter which career field they choose.
- CTE Intro students develop a variety of skills through activity-centered lessons that are transferable to the workplace and life, such as technical skills (e.g., knowledge of basic software, word processing, and spreadsheet applications), communication skills (e.g., verbal/nonverbal, teamwork, leadership, and organization), analytical skills (e.g., problem solving), and presentation skills (e.g., public speaking).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. WHAT IS CTE INTRO?

CTE Intro is a program that allows your child to develop beginning skills by exploring careers through activity-centered lessons to utilize technology. CTE Intro provides information regarding future classes and training related to your child's career field of interest.

### 2. WHO IS CTE INTRO FOR?

CTE Intro is for middle/junior high school seventh grade students. Over 35,000 seventh graders currently participate in CTE Intro as part of their middle/junior high school experience.

### 3. WHERE IS CTE INTRO TAUGHT?

CTE Intro is taught in all 141 middle/junior high schools throughout the state of Utah.

### 4. WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED TO TAKE CTE INTRO?

CTE Intro broadens your child's scope of learning and assists him or her in developing social, technical, and academic skills that will be beneficial throughout his or her life.

### 5. WHAT DOES CTE INTRO TEACH, AND WHAT DOES MY CHILD LEARN?

Through activity-centered lessons, students are exposed to Career and Technical Education areas of study, which include the following:

- Agriculture
- Business
- Economics
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Health Science and Technology
- Information Technology
- Marketing
- Skilled and Technical Sciences
- Technology and Engineering

CTE Intro is designed to help your child learn more about himself or herself and more about the world of work. Through CTE Intro, your child will have many opportunities to get his or her hands on real work tasks, assessing personal characteristics and learning how his or her characteristics support occupational choices. Your child will explore occupations grouped by career fields. These career fields include concepts in agriculture, health science and technology, marketing, information technology, and economics, which are integrated into business, family and consumer sciences, and technology and engineering education curricula.

### 6. HOW DOES CTE INTRO BENEFIT MY CHILD?

CTE Intro students develop skills that apply to every aspect of life, such as:

- How to work in a team (interpersonal and teamwork skills).
- How to positively encourage a team member (motivation and leadership skills).
- How to put together a report and/or presentation in a manner that is understandable to the group (organization, planning, communication, and time management skills).
- How to find a solution to a dilemma (problem-solving skills).
- How choices and decisions affect a business or group (business ethics and personal responsibility).

## CONNECTING STUDENTS' INTERESTS TO FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

CTE Intro affords students a rich opportunity to develop knowledge and skills, explore and expand on their self-understanding, and relate their understanding of employment possibilities to their interests. CTE Intro perhaps embodies the philosophy of middle school purpose better than any course available to students of this age.

### WHAT ARE YOUR CHILD'S INTERESTS?

Discuss with your child what he or she likes to do most. Below are some questions that will help you and your child think about interests.

#### *Ask your child:*

Do you like to be around people? Do you prefer working outdoors or indoors? Do you like things neat and organized? Do you like to take things apart? Do you prefer school courses with a lot of "doing" or with a lot of reading?

The more your child knows his or her likes and dislikes, the easier it will be to recognize the career fields that suit him or her best.

#### *Ask your child:*

What is your favorite school subject? What extracurricular activities do you enjoy the most? What are your hobbies? What do you like to do with friends? What special skills do you think you possess? What have you done that you are most proud of? What do you like to do with your free time? What interests you the most?

Research shows that your child will be more satisfied with his or her career choice if that choice is based on his or her interests and the activities that he or she enjoys most.

### DISCOVERING INTERESTS

As you and your child discover his or her interests, provide more opportunities for him or her to learn about and develop those interests.

- Take your child to the library to check out books of interest to him or her.
- Provide magazines and books that can help your child learn more about his or her interests.
- Allow your child to join a club that relates to his or her interest.
- Help your child find community service activities related to his or her interests that will allow hands-on exploration.

For example, if your child has an interest in animals, he or she might like to:

- Join a 4-H club.
- Volunteer at a local veterinary clinic or zoo.
- Walk or care for a neighbor's dog.

If your child has an interest in art, he or she might like to:

- Make birthday or holiday cards for relatives and friends.
- Create graphics for the school newsletter.
- Design a personal Website.

If your child likes to help people, he or she might like to:

- Volunteer at a local hospital.
- Assist at a day care center.
- Teach a younger child to read.

If your child likes to build or repair things, he or she might like to:

- Build a radio or computer from a kit.
- Take apart an old appliance and put it back together.
- Design and build a birdhouse.

If your child likes sports, he or she might like to:

- Play on a sports team.
- Assist a coach.
- Umpire or referee community games.

The more your child knows about his or her interests, abilities, preference and values, the more information he or she will have to use in making employment choices.

## LIFE SKILLS

Have you ever wondered what the first job may have been for a public figure in your community? Well, look below and you will discover what his or her first job may have been and the life skill he or she would have learned from that job.

PUBLIC FIGURE	FIRST JOB	LIFE SKILL LEARNED
News anchor	Answering telephones	Verbal communication
Teacher	Building a tree house	Analytical thinking
Designer	Wrapping gifts	Self-starter/initiative
Politician	Selling cookies	Enthusiasm/motivation
Farmer	Mowing lawns	Organization/planning
Nurse	Babysitting	Interpersonal communication
Chef	Dishwasher	Time management
Business executive	Window washer	Problem-solving
Fire fighter	Dog walker	Flexibility

## CTE PATHWAYS

Now is the time for your child to begin exploring and investigating a variety of career fields to find out which one fits his or her personality and interests. From animal science to biotechnology, from Web development to nursing, there are many Pathways your child can explore through CTE Intro.

### CTE INTRO AND PATHWAYS: Which Pathways Should YOU Explore?

Interest areas are most commonly sorted by the personality codes developed by John Holland. The courses in CTE Intro provide information regarding additional courses and training related to each student's career fields of interest.

#### Technical – Realistic (Doers)

Have good coordination and motor skills, mechanical aptitude; enjoy using tools and doing hands-on work

If your Holland Code is **REALISTIC**, and you think you would like to learn more about:

- Agricultural Science, Natural Resources, Animal Science, or Plants and Soil Science, check out the Pathways in [Agriculture](#).
- Foods and Nutrition, Interior Design, or Architecture, check out the Pathways in [Family and Consumer Sciences](#).
- Emergency Medicine, Exercise Science, or Optical, check out the Pathways in [Health Science and Technology](#).
- Computers, Web Development, or Networks, check out the Pathways in [Information Technology](#).
- Construction, TV Broadcasting, Mechanics, or Production Trades (e.g., Welding, Cabinetmaking), check out the Pathways in [Skilled and Technical Sciences](#).



#### Scientific – Investigative (Thinkers)

Enjoy science and math; analytical thinkers; like working with ideas; generally like to work alone

If your Holland Code is **INVESTIGATIVE**, and you think you would like to learn more about:

- Agricultural Science and Technology, check out the Pathways in [Agriculture](#).
- Biotechnology, Physiology, and Pharmacy, check out the Pathways in [Health Science and Technology](#).
- Databases, Computer Programming, or network Systems, check out the Pathways in [Information Technology](#).
- Engineering Design, check out the Pathways in [Technology and Engineering](#).



### Arts and Recreation – Artistic (Creators)

Enjoy art, music, literature, and poetry; favor unstructured work environments; are creative and like working alone

If your Holland Code is **ARTISITC**, and you think you would like to learn more about:

- Fashion or Interior Design, check out the Pathways in **Family and Consumer Sciences**.
- Multimedia or Web Development, check out the Pathways in **Information Technology**.
- Construction, Cosmetology, Commercial Art or Commercial Photography, check out the Pathways in **Skilled and Technical Sciences**.



### Social / Humanitarian – Social (Helpers)

Like helping others; good communications skills; enjoy social situations

If your Holland Code is **SOCIAL**, and you think you would like to learn more about:

- Child Development, Human Development, or Hospitality Services, check out the Pathways in **Family and Consumer Sciences**.
- American Sign Language, Medical or Dental Assisting, or Nursing, check out the Pathways in **Health Science and Technology**.
- Cosmetology or Protective Services, check out the Pathways in **Skilled and Technical Sciences**.



### Administration and Marketing – Enterprising (Persuaders)

Like leadership and responsibility; good at persuading others; good verbal abilities

If your Holland Code is **ENTERPRISING**, and you think you would like to learn more about:

- Agriculture Business Management, check out the Pathways in **Agriculture**.
- Business Entrepreneurship, Banking or Business Management, check out the Pathways in **Business**.
- Advertising and Promotion or Travel and Tourism, check out the Pathways in **Family and Consumer Sciences**.
- Marketing Entrepreneurship, Marketing Management, Advertising, or Retailing, check out the Pathways in **Marketing**.



### Business Operations – Conventional (Organizers)

Like working with numbers and other data; pay close attention to detail; like structure and rules

If your Holland Code is **CONVENTIONAL**, and you think you would like to learn more about:

- Word Processing, Accounting, Desktop Publishing, or Business Communications, check out the Pathways in **Business**.
- Medical Records or Medical Terminology, check out the Pathways in **Health Science and Technology**.
- Computer Programming or Technical Support, check out the Pathways in **Information Technology**.





## CTE INTRO ACTIVITY-CENTERED LESSONS

Imagine the excitement of exploring numerous career fields and discovering how they relate to real-life situations, all while in junior high school. *Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Agriculture

Imagine learning what plants and animals produce fiber for clothing.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Business

Imagine creating a slide show utilizing specialized software applications.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Economics

Imagine participating in an activity where the economic principles of cost and benefit are explored, and then learning how to meet unlimited wants and needs with limited resources while planning a trip.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Family and Consumer Sciences

Imagine identifying personal hazards that may exist in the home, how to prevent accidents when caring for children, and demonstrating prevention of injury or illness through safe practices.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Health Science and Technology

Imagine assuming the role of an epidemiologist and figuring out what caused a group of people at a potluck dinner to become sick by analyzing the patients' symptoms and the food they ate.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Information Technology

Imagine using software to design a flyer while making decisions about audience, purpose, color, format, and at the same time creating graphics.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Marketing

Imagine creating a new cereal, designing the cereal box, and developing a marketing plan to sell the cereal.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Skilled and Technical Sciences

Imagine learning about careers in construction, manufacturing, communication, personal services, and protective services, while at the same time having a hands-on experience.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*

### Technology and Engineering

Imagine learning how to operate a remote-controlled robot to remove hazardous materials during a simulated event.  
*Your child just did it in CTE Intro!*  
For more information about CTE Intro, talk to your school counselor or CTE teacher.



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